In the claims:

Please replace claims 31 and 32 with amended claims 31 and 32 as follows:

A6 B1

-- 31. (Amended) A method of generating a variant comprising:

obtaining a nucleic acid comprising a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, sequences having at least 70% identity thereto, sequences complementary to SEQ ID NO:1 or sequences having at least 70% identity to SEQ ID NO:1, and fragments comprising at least 30 consecutive nucleotides thereof, and

modifying one or more nucleotides in said sequence to another nucleotide, deleting one or more nucleotides in said sequence, or adding one or more nucleotides to said sequence.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the modifications are introduced by a method selected from the group consisting of error-prone PCR, shuffling, oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis, assembly PCR, sexual PCR mutagenesis, in vivo mutagenesis, cassette mutagenesis, recursive ensemble mutagenesis, exponential ensemble mutagenesis, site-specific mutagenesis, ligation reassembly, gene site saturated mutagenesis (GSSM) and any combination thereof. --

Please add claim 52.

A7 B2

-- 52. (NEW) The method of claim 31, wherein the variant has polymerase activity.

add B2